

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 ACDA-05 /086 W

----- 015936

R 090755Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5733

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS: NEW NADIR

1. QADDHAFI HAS MADE FRONT PAGES IN CAIRO ALL WEEK. ALL PAPERS GAVE HIS KAMPALA EXHIBITION BANNER HEADLINES, THEN FOLLOWED UP AUG 5 WITH PHOTO STORIES ON MINSTATE RIAD'S RETURN TO CAIRO. RIAD REPORTEDLY TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT AFRICANS AT OAU CONFERENCE HAD BEEN DISGUSTED AT QADDHAFI'S CONDUCT; HIS IMPUDENCE HAD DETRACTED FROM ARAB PRESTIGE, AND ONLY ISRAEL COULD BENEFIT.

2. SECOND FEATURE ALL PAPERS AUG 5 WAS YET ANOTHER REPORT OF "ABORTIVE MILITARY COUP" IN LIBYA. CAIRO PRESS CLAIMED THIS "THIRD RECENT EFFORT" UNSEAT QADDHAFI WAS ORGANIZED BY ONE MAJOR ADB AL-FATTAH YUNIS, COMMANDER OF BENGHAZI REPUBLICAN GUARD UNIT. WHILE QADDHAFI WAS IN KAMPALA, YUNIS AND 20 OTHER GUARDS OFFICERS WERE ALLEGEDLY ARRESTED IN TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI.

3. ALL THREE PAPERS KEEP ANTI-LARG ALLEGATIONS FLYING. ITEMS RANGED FROM REPORTS ON QADDHAFI'S
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MENTAL HEALTH TO PETTY LIVEL OF COMPLAINING ABOUT

BAD SPORTSMANSHIP OF LIBYAN FOOTBALLERS.

4. COMMENT: LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE WITNESSED
REMARKABLE STEP UP IN EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA. BILATERAL
RELATIONS HAVE NOW SUNK TO NEW NADIR. BRIEF
PROPAGANDA TRUCE IN MID-MAY WAS BROKEN BY
EGYPTIAN IRE AT LARG-USSR ARMS DEAL . SINCE THEN,
MOST OF FOCUS HAS BEEN ON SUCH HOARY ISSUES AS LIBYAN
AMBITIONS IN WESTERN DESERT. HOWEVER, A FEW EVENTS
HAVE FURNISHED REAL MEAT FOR RED BANNER HEADLINES; E.G.,
WHEN LIBYAN CULTURAL ATTACHE WAS CAUGHT RED HANDED
WITH ANTI-GOE TRACTS AND, MOST DRAMATIC OF ALL,
QADDHAFI'S INSULTING BEHAVIOR IN KAMPALA
PLENARY (HE CALLED EGYPTIAN DEL "BASTARDS"-ADDIS 9462).

5. IN SUM, GOE GIVES IMPRESSION OF HAVING GIVEN UP
ON TAMING QADDHAFI. SADAT HIMSELF IS TRULY FURIOUS
AT PERSONAL INSULTS DIRECTED AGAINST HIS FAMILY.
THE LARG-USSR CONNECTION RANKLES SEVERELY. FURTHER,
GOE HAS BEGUN TO SUSPECT THAT LIBYAN-FINANCED BEIRUT
PAPERS ARE USING ANTI-GOE MATERIAL WHICH LARG MAY
HAVE DERIVED FROM SOME OUTSIDE SOURCE; AL-KIFAH
AL-ARABI ARTICLE REPORTED IN BEIRUT 9305 IS
GOOD EXAMPLE.
MASSTRONE

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